

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A color reproduction system, comprising:
a plurality of selectively activatable imaging components, each of which
is associated with a different respective color;
5 means for identifying colors in an image to be reproduced; and
a controller which disables selected ones of said imaging components that
are not associated with any of the identified colors in the image.
2. The color reproduction system of claim 1, wherein said imaging
components are movable elements of a toner cartridge.
- 10 3. The color reproduction system of claim 2, wherein said movable
elements comprise rotatable sleeves.
4. The color reproduction system of claim 2, wherein said imaging
components further comprise a laser associated with each of the toner cartridges.
- 15 5. The color reproduction system of claim 1, wherein said imaging
components comprise photoconductive drums.
6. The color reproduction system of claim 1, wherein said identifying
means comprises a printer driver.
7. The color reproduction system of claim 1, wherein said identifying
means comprises a printer engine that is responsive to data in a page description
20 language.
8. The color reproduction system of claim 1, further comprising:

a clutch, wherein the controller selectively disables the clutch based on the disabled imaging components.

9. The color reproduction system of claim 1, wherein the color reproduction system is a color laser printer.

5 10. The color reproduction system of claim 1, wherein the color reproduction system is a facsimile machine.

11. The color reproduction system of claim 1, wherein the color reproduction system is a photocopying machine.

10 12. A method for reproducing a color image, comprising the following steps:
identifying colors in an image to be printed; and
activating selected ones of a plurality of imaging components that are respectively associated with the identified colors in the image to be printed.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said imaging components are movable elements of a toner cartridge.

15 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said movable elements comprise rotatable sleeves.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said imaging components further comprise a laser associated with each of the toner cartridges.

20 16. The method of claim 12, wherein said imaging components comprise photoconductive drums.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein said identifying and activating steps are performed on a page-by-page basis for the document to be printed.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein the image is printed by a printer.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein the image is printed by a facsimile
5 machine.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein the image is printed by a photocopying machine.